



**NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING EDITION 2021



Sheriff Robert P. Mosier  
78 W Lee St Ste 200  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
540-422-8600

**NEW LEGISLATION  
TAKES EFFECT IN VA**



**IN THIS ISSUE ...**

**New Laws Take Effect.....2**

**Wise County Deputy  
Receives Award.....2**

**VSA Executive Director's  
New Role.....3**

**Scammers' Latest Target.....3**

**Drunk Driving Up in 2020.....3**

**Know These Tips  
Before Giving.....3**

**2021 Class of the VSI  
Certification Program .....4**

**Motorcycle Safety.....4**

**Message from  
Sheriff Mosier .....4**



2020-2021

---

**President**

Sheriff James E. Brown, III  
City of Charlottesville

**Immediate Past President**

Sheriff Michael S. Mondul  
City of Danville

**First Vice President**

Sheriff Mark A. Amos  
Orange County

**Secretary**

Sheriff Karl S. Leonard  
Chesterfield County

**Treasurer**

Sheriff Les R. Taylor  
City of Winchester

---

**Board Members**

Sheriff Robert P. "Bob" Mosier  
Fauquier County

Sheriff J.J. McLaughlin, Jr.  
New Kent County

Sheriff Michael W. Taylor  
Pittsylvania County

Sheriff Ernest L. Giles, Sr.  
Sussex County

**Executive Director**  
John W. Jones

---

**We Want to  
Hear from You ...**

---

 901 East Byrd Street  
Suite 1301  
Richmond, VA 23219

 (804) 225-7152 phone

 (804) 225-7162 fax

 vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org

## NEW LEGISLATION TAKES EFFECT

We wanted to make sure you and other Fauquier County members are aware of several new laws that took effect in March, which are related to law enforcement and the push by some advocacy groups for criminal justice reform. These laws came out of the special legislative session that spanned nearly 12 weeks in Fall 2020.

**HB 5108** bans police from executing no-knock search warrants. This legislation makes Virginia the third state in the country to bar law enforcement from executing warrants without first knocking and announcing themselves.

**HB 5051** directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to adopt standards of conduct for law enforcement officers. These statewide standards would define serious misconduct, among other things. This law would also make it easier to root out law enforcement officers who have committed serious offenses and prevent them from being rehired.

**HB 5109** creates a standardized curriculum

for law enforcement that includes racial bias, de-escalation, and crisis intervention training.

**HB 5069** prohibits a law enforcement officer from using a neck restraint in the performance of his official duties and provides for disciplinary sanctions on an officer who uses a neck restraint. The bill provides an exception from the prohibition if a neck restraint is immediately necessary to protect the officer or another person.

**SB 5030** blocks departments from acquiring certain military equipment, including weaponized drones, combat aircraft, grenades and grenade launchers, mine-resistant armored vehicles, bayonets, tanks and .50 caliber or higher weaponry. Law enforcement departments can ask the state for a waiver if they decide they do need any of this equipment.

**HB 5098** makes it a hate crime to falsely summon or give false reports to law enforcement officials.



## WISE COUNTY DEPUTY RECEIVES CRISIS INTERVENTION AWARD

Wise County Deputy Sheriff Dalton Cress received the Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition Award for 2020 for his work helping local residents in crisis.

Since completing his crisis training in March 2020, Deputy Cress used his skills to intervene on more than one occasion to de-escalate crisis situations in the field. One incident involved a man who was intoxicated and feared leaving his home would lead to his arrest.

Deputy Cress was able to convince the subject to exit his home peacefully, and he accepted a voluntary transport to a center that provided a detoxification program.

In another situation, Deputy Cress overheard a call for service in which a person had said he was going to "end it all." Deputy Cress recognized the name of the man as someone he had dealt with in the past and asked for permission to contact the subject. He reached him by phone and put to work all of his training.

Fortunately, the subject eventually decided to seek help and texted Deputy Cress asking what he should do to get it. The subject later confided in Deputy Cress that it was because he knew someone cared for him that he chose not to commit suicide.

We congratulate Deputy Cress for his incredible service to his community.

## VSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO IMPORTANT ROLE

Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) Executive Director, John W. Jones, has been appointed to represent the nation's sheriffs on the board of directors of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This important organization is the nation's leader in recognizing law enforcement officers that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The memorial and museum are located in Washington DC and are ground zero in honoring the country's law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The memorial was established by an act of congress in October of 1984, and the museum is a realistic display of the story of the nation's law enforcement officers and their sacrifices in duty to their communities and nation.

Mr. Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director of the National Sheriffs' Association, said in recommending John for the board position, "I trust John implicitly and so too do the nation's Sheriffs. He is one of the good guys; discrete; and has a vast and deep reach across the country. His great judgment lets him speak strongly on behalf of Sheriffs, the NSA and law enforcement generally."

## SCAMMERS NOW TARGETING COVID-19 VACCINATION CARDS

At a time when more Americans are receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations there has also been a surge of people sharing this news with family and friends via social media by posting a photo of their vaccine card. If your privacy settings are not strict, anyone can view your vaccination card, which includes your name, date of birth, patient number, and other personal information, and that means scammers can have full access to this information, which could lead to identity theft.



Your date of birth is one of the most prized pieces of information a scammer can obtain, so be sure to guard it from disclosure on social media sites. And if you've already posted your vaccine card on a site like Facebook, remove it or redact the personal information by covering it.



## DRUNK DRIVING DEATHS ROSE IN 2020

As we've written about recently, U.S. traffic deaths were up in 2020 despite coronavirus lockdowns. While the pandemic forced quarantines, drunk driving deaths in Virginia were up to 264 in 2020 from 249 in 2019. Even though many counties imposed stay-at-home orders and forced the closure of bars, restaurants and public events, alcohol sales — both in stores and online — skyrocketed.

It's clear that while fewer people may have been on the roads last year, impaired driving did not stop during the pandemic. That's why the law enforcement officers in Fauquier County are focused on identifying and removing drunk drivers from the roadways and keeping the community safe.

## TIPS TO REMEMBER BEFORE GIVING TO A CHARITY



In light of a huge charitable fundraising scam that was taken down in 2020, it's important that our members have the information they need to ensure their generous donations are going into the right hands. Here are some tips provided by the Virginia Attorney General's website to consider:

- Give to charities you know and trust
- Watch out for groups with names that sound like other well-known, reputable charities
- Don't give to someone pressuring you to make a quick donation or requiring you to give cash or wire money
- Ask for detailed information about programs and services in writing
- Find out how much of your donation will go to the charity's programs and services
- Check if the charity and its fundraiser are registered with the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs in the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - (804) 786-1343 or <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-charitable-solicitation.shtml>

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

The scholarship — funded by generous VSI supporters like you — is granted to full-time or part-time students majoring in criminal justice and attending a Virginia state college or university. With the help of loyal members like you, we awarded 68 scholarships for 2020-2021 to Virginia's youth. Scholarship applications are available on our website at <https://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>. Applications are due May 1, 2021.

## PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF ROBERT P. MOSIER



On behalf of everyone at the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy after a challenging winter. I imagine you are as eager as I am to usher in a new season that will put us on a path to restoring some sense of normalcy to our community and to the greater Commonwealth of Virginia.

Of course many Virginia residents and their families will be taking to the roadways this spring, in an effort to enjoy all of the sites and scenery Virginia has to offer, so I encourage drivers to be extra vigilant, especially as this time of year brings many out-of-state visitors to our area. Below are a few tips to help promote safety on our roadways:

- Refrain from drinking and driving
- Refrain from walking or driving impaired, which includes the use of a cell phone or other multi-media device
- Yield to pedestrians
- Obey speed limits

I hope you find the information included in your newsletter helpful and informative. Please feel free to pass on the newsletter to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. I urge you to contact my office if you have any questions about the subjects we discuss in this issue of the *VSI Newsletter*, or if you have any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in our community.

Thank you for all you do to support Virginia's public safety officers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Mosier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Sheriff Robert P. Mosier  
78 W Lee St Ste 200  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
540-422-8600

## VSI ANNOUNCES 2021 CLASS OF THE VSI CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is pleased to announce 17 new people to the VSI Certification Program. This program promotes, recognizes, and elevates the continued individual professional development of Virginia's sheriffs and deputies.

Sheriffs and deputies serving in the Commonwealth of Virginia carry immense responsibilities as the guardians of their communities, providing effective public safety services balanced with the fair and equitable treatment of every individual they encounter.

The VSI Certification Program was developed by the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) in cooperation with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA), the Performance Management Group at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation (VCPI).

Graduates will be recognized at the annual VSI Spring Conference.

## MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS



Spring is here and we know some of our members are eager to take their motorcycles back out on the roadways. To ensure your ride is safe and legal, here are a few tips we'd like to pass on from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:

- Make sure you are licensed. If you operate a motorcycle in Virginia, you must hold a valid Class "M," "M2," or "M3" designation or a motorcycle driver's license.
- If you own or operate a motorcycle in our state, you must have a Virginia title, registration card, and license plate.
- Always wear the proper riding gear — including a helmet, eye protection, leather jacket and trousers, durable gloves, and proper footwear — to prevent injury in case of a crash.

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute solicits articles and comments from associate members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles and comments should be directed to: John W. Jones, Executive Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or phone (804) 225-7152.